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Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session

Relocation of South Africa to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (*c*) of General Assembly resolution 43/232

Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the Assembly of an additional sub-item entitled "Relocation of South Africa to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (*c*) of General Assembly resolution 43/232" under agenda item 151, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum concerning the request is annexed to the present letter.

(*Signed*) Dumisani S. **Kumalo**
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Explanatory memorandum

1. In a note verbale dated 23 June 1999, which was circulated as a document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly (A/53/1009), South Africa drew the attention of Member States to the need to relocate South Africa from group (b) to group (c) in the scheme for the apportionment of the costs of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, in accordance with a recent decision of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

2. In the above-mentioned document, South Africa's request that the matter be included for consideration under the agenda item on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations at the earliest possible occasion, but no later than during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, was clearly stated.

3. South Africa has been placed in group (b) of the scheme for the apportionment of the costs of United Nations peacekeeping operations since the introduction of the scheme with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973. This is a historical anomaly attributable to the misguided policy of the apartheid Government to project South Africa, at the time, as an economically developed Member State.

4. The fact is that South Africa is a developing country. It has an average per capita gross national product of $3,400 per annum (source: World Bank African Development Index 1998/99), making it the only economically less developed Member State to find itself in category (b) of the scheme for the apportionment of the costs of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It should be noted that South Africa's per capita gross national product is lower than those of a number of countries placed in category (c).

5. Since it assumed office after the country's first ever democratic elections, in 1994, the Government of South Africa has consistently sought to meet its financial obligations to the United Nations on time and in full. However, as an economically less developed Member State facing the additional dilemma of redressing the poverty and suffering brought about after many years of apartheid rule, the country can ill afford the added burden it has to carry as a result of its allocation to group (b) of the scheme for the apportionment of costs for peacekeeping operations.

6. It is further pertinent to note that, at the Twelfth Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which took place in Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, the Heads of State or Government specifically underlined that members of the Movement and other developing countries should be classified in a category that is no higher than group (c) in the scale of assessments for United Nations peacekeeping operations.

7. The Government of South Africa believes that, considering the above facts, its request for relocation from group (b) to group (c) will be regarded positively.